

INTELLIGENCE

Country: New Caledonia
Subject: Placer Chrome Mines

C 60960

CIA

DATE 15 Dec 53

Place Acquired: - - -

Supplement to: 25X1A2g

Date Acquired : Nov 53

Responsive to: 25X1A2g

Date of Info : Nov 53

SOURCE:

25X1X6

25X1A2g

/Collector's Note:

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1. Thus far the US interests in the Société Generale pour l'Exploration Minérale en Afrique [SOGEMAF] have not been able to devise a flotation process to deal with the chromite ore from the placer deposits in New Caledonia because the chromite and iron contents are in chemical combination. SOGEMAF has therefore abandoned some of its options on chromite placer deposit claims along the west coast of New Caledonia [see] while retaining the more promising claims. Meanwhile it has shifted its attention to the area of the Baie de Nehoué at the northwestern tip of the island in the hope of finding chrome deposits free of chemical combination with iron. There is a large area in the Baie de Nehoué which contains chrome ore and the company is now [Nov 53] engaged in proving these deposits. The primary concern of the US interests in SOGEMAF is to establish a continuing source of chrome ore sufficient to meet their requirements which they do not have at present. 25X1A2g
2. CALMET [Compagnie Caledonienne des Metaux] is in liquidation and has all of its equipment up for auction. It was obvious to me from its inception that the company's primary operations were not sufficiently large to cover its overhead.

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